Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/551,274	SEKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tianjie Chen	2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *Amendment filed on 11/14/2007*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *7 and 9-13*.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Chen Tianjie

TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. PCT/JP04/04668, filed on 03/31/2004.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicant's election without traverse of Group II, claims 7-12 in the reply filed on 11/14/2007 is acknowledged. However, claim 8 has been cancelled and claim 13 has been added. Finally claims 7 and 9-13 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In specification, p. 2, line 19; "(Patent Documents 1 and 2)" has been deleted.
- In specification, p. 3, line 7; "Patent Document 3" has been deleted.
- In specification, p. 4, line 8; "Patent Document 3" has been deleted.
- In specification, p. 5, lines 12-13; "Patent Document 1" has been deleted.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- With regard to independent claims 7 and 11, as a close reference, **Nishida et al (JP 2000-048459)** discloses a drive unit driving mechanism having a drive unit for playing back disks, a drive base for supporting the drive unit, and drive base movement means that allows the drive base to move into a space that is produced through division of a disk holder that is capable of storing a plurality of disks, comprising: an elastic member that elastically supports the drive unit on the drive base; and a floating lock mechanism that is driven by the drive base movement means and switches between a floating state where the drive unit is supported by only the elastic member and a locked state where the drive unit is fixed to the drive base, wherein the drive unit is provided with a turntable where a disk to be played back is mounted; and a single drive source that allows the serial operation of the drive base movement means and the floating lock mechanism is provided; **but fails to show** a disk clamping mechanism that is driven by the drive base movement means and which sandwiches the disk to be played back between the disk clamping mechanism and the turntable; and the single drive source also allows the operation of the disk clamp mechanism. And **Otsuki (US 6,947,357)** discloses a drive unit driving mechanism having a drive unit for playing back disks, a drive base for supporting the drive unit, and drive base movement means that allows the drive base to move into a space that is produced through division of a disk holder that is capable of storing a plurality of disks, comprising: a drive unit is provided with a turntable where a disk to be played back is mounted and a disk clamping mechanism that is driven by the drive base movement means and which

sandwiches the disk to be played back between the disk clamping mechanism and the turntable; and a single drive source that allows the serial operation of the drive base movement means and the disk clamp mechanism is provided; **but fails to show** an elastic member that elastically supports the drive unit on the drive base; and a floating lock mechanism that is driven by the drive base movement means and switches between a floating state where the drive unit is supported by only the elastic member and a locked state where the drive unit is fixed to the drive base, and the single drive source also allows the operation of the floating lock mechanism.

- Applicant asserts; "An object of the present invention is to provide a disk drive and drive unit driving mechanism that are simple and small and which allow each part to operate smoothly" (Specification, p. 6).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. The prior art made of record in PTO-892 Form and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tianjie Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-7570. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a simple disk drive and drive unit driving mechanism with compact size in which each part is able to operate smoothly.

The disk drive and drive unit driving mechanism comprise a disk holder 10 that has a plurality of holder plates 11 that individually hold disks D, a drive unit 62 that plays back disks D, disk selectors 41A and 41B that form a space above and below a desired disk D by raising and lowering the holder plates 11, and a drive base 60 that moves the drive unit 62 into a space that is formed by raising and lowering the holder plates 11. The disk selectors 41A and 41B are provided with flat cams 41Aa to 41Ac and 41Ba to 41Bc in which the protrusion 14a provided on the holder plate 11 is inserted so as to be capable of performing a sliding movement, such that the tips of the cams are wedge-shaped. The holder plates 11 above and below the desired disk D rise and fall in accordance with the sliding movement of the disk selectors 41A and 41B.